

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

This response to the Office Action of January 14, 2005, includes substitute drawings as required to overcome the objection under 35 CFR §1.83(a). Specifically, FIG. 7 has been revised to point out reference object "204" as required by the objection. To further respond to the objection under 35 CFR §1.83(a), paragraph [0086] has been amended to delete any reference to item "214." Thus, the drawings and written description thereof are in compliance, and the Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Further, the Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to eliminate the "vague" and "technical phraseology" referred to in the objection. More particularly, the acronyms included in the original Abstract have been explained in the replacement Abstract. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the Abstract be withdrawn.

On page 4 of the Office Action, a statement is made that, "The Oath fails to claim priority to a Provisional Application. Correction is required." However, the Applicant notes that a statement to such effect has been made on page 1 of the Application itself and, more notably, acknowledgement of the claim to priority with regard to the provisional patent application 60/280896, which was filed on April 2, 2001, has been made in the Official Filing Receipt dated October 3, 2001. Thus, the Applicant respectfully traverses the objection to the oath, until/unless

further substantiation is made to support the objection. Accordingly, the Applicant requests that the objection to the Oath be withdrawn.

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of his telephone call on December 29, 2004, to the Applicant's undersigned representative for the purpose of advancing prosecution by orally presenting the Restriction Requirement set forth in the outstanding Office Action. To confirm, the Applicant has elected, with traverse, the claims of Group I, which include Claims 1-19.

Further, on page 1 of the outstanding Office Action, item (7) indicates that Claims 7, 9, and 10 are objected to; that is, that Claims 7, 9, and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims from which they originally depended. Thus, Claims 7, 9, and 10 are presently amended, *i.e.*, rewritten in independent form, as required to be placed in condition for allowance.

In rewriting Claims 7, 9, and 10 in independent form, the Applicant addressed the antecedent basis problem originally cited with regard to Claim 6, which is incorporated to all of rewritten Claims 7, 9, and 10. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Further still, to expedite the present application to allowance and issuance, the remaining claims (1-6, 8, and 11-25) are presently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, the Applicant is canceling Claims 1-6, 8, and 11-25 without making any concessions with regard to any of

the outstanding rejections of the canceled claims, and none should be inferred. Rather, the Applicant may choose to address such rejections in one or more divisional or continuation patent applications.

As a result of the cancellation of Claims 1–6, 8, and 11–25, it is respectfully submitted that all of the outstanding rejections are rendered moot, including:

1. the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kanemaki, *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,081,845; hereafter “Kanemaki”);
2. the rejection of Claims 3, 4, 8, and 12–14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanemaki in view of purported admitted prior art; and
3. the rejection of Claims 11 and 15–19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanemaki in view of Srbljic, *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,993,849).

The Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

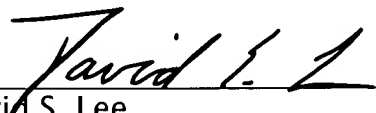
CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early and forthright issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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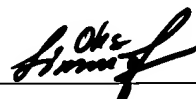
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